

SOC 1010-001

Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2014 T/H 10:45-12:05pm BEHS AUD

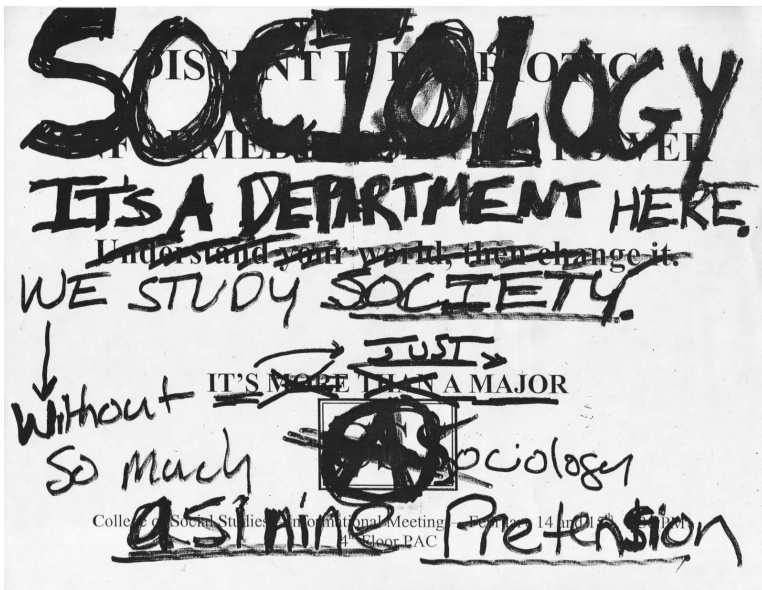
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Course Description



When classes rise or fall, a person is employed or unemployed; when the rate of investment goes up or down, a person takes new heart or goes broke. When wars happen, an insurance salesperson becomes a rocket launcher; a store clerk, a radar operator; a wife or husband lives alone; a child grows up without a parent. Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both.

C. Wright Mills

It seems fitting to begin this course with an image and also with a quote from a famous sociologist who wrote “The Promise,” in the early 1960s. The image is a pledge, a plea, a portent to remind us that we are going to stay grounded in this class—we will shed pretense and fronts and go to ground. On the other hand the quote is a foreshadowing as well and telling in several notable ways. It reflects momentous and yet almost commonplace societal changes—wars, for example, were as common in the 1960s as they are today.

Moreover, it reflects a specific standpoint on the world, which we will be discussing consistently in this class. This critical and disciplinary standpoint is willing to take on societal issues head on whether large or small, great or humble, from the crash of stock markets to the life of a child. Let us begin.

Course Objectives

I would like you to leave this course with 1) a working definition of sociology that makes sense to you; 2) a feel for the major thinkers in the discipline past and present; 3) a sense of what sociologists do and why; 4) a grasp of how sociologists view the social world beginning with larger social constructions like human societies and social structures, and working through smaller social constructions like individual socialization patterns and dyads (couples), moving on to various social contingencies like inequalities, institutions, and change; and 5) a basis for critical thinking about the discipline in relation to the society and other disciplines.

Canvas

This course requires use of **Canvas**. You will be expected to retrieve and upload assignments and readings through Canvas throughout the course of the semester. It would be wise to sign into Canvas through the Campus Information System (CIS) as soon as you can so that you can see all required assignments and readings for the class.

Teaching Assistants

This course has assigned undergraduate Teaching Assistants or TAs. TAs do not grade, but review and advise on student work, and may be helpful in other ways to students. TAs will have access to Canvas information such as grades and assignments. Each TA has signed a confidentiality agreement and is therefore bound by University policy and the Student Code to hold all student information confidential.

Required Text

James M. Henslin. 2007. *Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings*, 14th edition. Free Press: New York.

Each section of the class requires specific readings from the Henslin text as listed in the Course Outline. Readings are numbered as they are in the Henslin text and are not always in order. You can also find a full list of the readings in the last two pages of the syllabus. **Readings are required to be read by the dates listed in Canvas.** For example, your first readings by Peter Berger and C. Wright Mills are due to be read by August 29th.

Class Work

The major tasks of this class include two essay assignments, three multiple choice exams, and any extra assignments given in class. In addition, **attendance and class participation** are also considered significant to your grade. Taking **notes** is a **must** in this class and will be considered part of participation. Due dates and exam dates will be “written in stone” unless you have been informed otherwise by me. If you are unable to meet a specific deadline and I don't hear from you **before** the due date you will be out of luck. In the interest of clarity, let us further break down the components of the grade.

Exams (3 in-class, Multiple Choice exams, Sept 25, Oct 30, Dec 16)

The three exams are **multiple choice exams with** no less than 30 and up to 50 multiple choice questions. Each of the three exams will cover approximately a third of the class material and **none will be cumulative**. You should study the material consistently and in detail to do well on these exams. Class material includes notes and readings.

First Essay Assignment: A Taste of the Sociological Imagination

(2 page Essay, Upload to Canvas, Single-spaced Word doc, Oct 23 by 8:00am)

This assignment requires that you spend 2-3 hours in any social situation and observe with the eyes of a sociologist. That is, you must look for patterns in people's behaviors. Then, you will document these patterns in a short essay. Some examples of social situations that students have used in the past are: the airport, a party, a little league game, a health spa, a dance club, a singles ward, and a bookstore. There are many others that you could choose. **PROOFREAD** your paper!! Also watch font and margin space. Keep font to no more than 12pt (as long as it is not Courier New) and margins to 1 inch on each side. Then upload to Canvas by Oct 24 at 8:00am.

Second Essay Assignment: My Sociology

(2 page Essay, Upload to Canvas, Single-spaced Word doc, Nov 20 by 8:00am)

This assignment requires that you discuss your own life experience as it has been shaped by sociological processes that we discuss in class. We will cover issues related to family, culture, relationships, inequality, group dynamics, work, deviance, religion, health, etc... You should be able to relate your life story in several respects to the social forces discussed in class. **PROOFREAD** your paper!! Also watch font and margin space. Keep font to no more than 12pt (as long as it is not Courier New) and margins to 1 inch on each side. Then upload to Canvas by Nov 21 at 8:00am.

Grade Calculation

Students can calculate their grade as follows.

Exam #1	100 points
First Essay Assignment	75 points

Exam #2	100 points
Second Essay Assignment	75 points
Exam #3	100 points
Participation and Attendance	50 points
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Total	500 points

Other Assignments and Miscellaneous Information...

I reserve the right to give assignments as needed. For example, students who aren't prepared to discuss readings may be asked to upload an extra essay assignment. If assignments are given, they will count toward your final grade. One other thing... If laptops or ipads or other devices are becoming a nuisance in the class, I will ban them, so don't let them become a distraction.

Information about the Center for Disability Services

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All printed information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Academic Misconduct

Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). "A student who engages in academic misconduct," as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, "may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing." Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

Dates You Should Know

- 25 Sept: Exam #1**
- 23 Oct: First Essay Assignment**
- 30 Oct: Exam #2**
- 20 Nov: Second Essay Assignment**
- 16 Dec: Exam #3**

Course Outline

AUG	26	Introduction to Sociology
	28	Developing A Sociological Consciousness 1. Peter Berger "Invitation to Sociology" 3. C. Wright Mills "The Promise"
SEPT	1	Labor Day Holiday
	2	Developing a Sociological Consciousness continued
	4-9	Culture and Social Structure 8. Horace Miner "Body Ritual Among the Nacerima" 12. Erving Goffman "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life"
	11-16	Socialization

		10. Edward T. and Mildred R. Hall “The Sounds of Silence”
		13. James Henslin “On Becoming Male: Reflections on Childhood and Early Socialization”
		14. Donna Eder “On Becoming Female: Lessons Learned in School”
		17. Deborah Tannen “‘But What Do You Mean?’ Women and Men in Conversation”
	18-23	Social Groups and Formal Organizations
		18. Helene M. Lawson “Attacking Nicely: Women Selling Cars”
		19. Kandi M. Stinson “Religion and Morality in Weight Loss Groups”
	25	Exam #1
	30	Deviance
		23. Philip Meyer “If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably”
		25. Ken Levi “Becoming a Hit Man”
		26. William J. Chambliss “The Saints and The Roughnecks”
		27. Philip G. Zimbardo “The Pathology of Imprisonment”
OCT	2-9	Deviance (continued)
	12-19	Fall Break
	21-23	Social Stratification
		21. Elliot Liebow “The Lives of Homeless Women”
		35. Stephen Higley “The U.S. Upper Class”
	23	First Essay Assignment
	28	Racial/Ethnic and Gender Inequity
		31. Clarence Page “Showing My Color”
		32. Raphael Ezekiel “The Racist Mind”
	30	Exam #2
NOV	4-6	Racial/Ethnic and Gender Inequity continued
		30. Patricia Yancey Martin and Robert A. Hummer “Fraternities and Rape On Campus”
		45. Laura L. Miller “Women in the Military”
	11-18	Family
		37. Stephanie Coontz “The American Family”
	20-25	Religion, Education, and Health
		40. Marvin Harris “India’s Sacred Cow”
		39. Harry L. Gracey “Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp”
		38. Robbie E. Davis-Floyd “Giving Birth the American Way”
	20	Second Essay Assignment
	27-28	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
DEC	2	Religion, Education, and Health continued
	4-11	Social Change

46. **William Van Dusen Wishard** “Caught Between the Ages”

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Exam #3 – Tuesday 10:30-12:30pm

***Down to Earth Sociology* – Required Reading List**

Developing a Sociological Consciousness

1. Peter L. Berger. 1963. "Invitation to Sociology." In *Invitation to Sociology*. New York: Doubleday.
3. C. Wright Mills. 1959. "The Promise." Pp. 3-13 in *The Sociological Imagination*. London: Oxford University Press.

Culture and Social Structure

8. Horace Miner. 1956. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema," *American Anthropologist* 58: 3.
12. Erving Goffman. 1959. "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life." Pp. 1-15 in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Doubleday & Company.

Socialization

10. Edward T. and Mildred R. Hall. 1971. "The Sounds of Silence," *Playboy* (June): 139-140, 204, 206
13. James Henslin. 2001. "On Becoming Male: Reflections of a Sociologist on Childhood and Early Socialization." Pp. 161-172 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.
14. Donna Eder. 1995. "On Becoming Female: Lessons Learned in School." In *School Talk*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.
17. Deborah, Tannen. 1994. "But What Do You Mean?: Women and Men in Conversation." *Redbook* (October):91-93, 145-47.

Social Groups and Formal Organizations

18. Helene M. Lawson. 2007. "Attacking Nicely: Women Selling Cars." Pp. 203-216 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.
19. Kandi M. Stinson. 2007. "Religion and Morality in Weight Loss Groups." Pp. 217-228 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.

Deviance

23. Philip Meyer. 1970. "If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably," *Esquire*.
25. Ken Levi. 1981. "Becoming a Hit Man." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 10(1):47-63.
26. William J. Chambliss. 1973. "The Saints and The Roughnecks," *Society* 11(1).
27. Philip G. Zimbardo. 1972. "The Pathology of Imprisonment," *Society* 9(6).

Social Stratification

21. Elliot Liebow. 2007. "The Lives of Homeless Women." Pp. 242-248 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.
35. Stephen Higley. 2007. "The U.S. Upper Class." Pp. 395-406 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (11th ed.). New York: The Free Press.

Racial/Ethnic and Gender Inequities

31. Clarence Page. 2007. "Showing My Color." Pp. 360-368 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.
32. Raphael Ezekiel. 1995. "The Racist Mind." In *The Racist Mind*. New York: Viking Penguin.
30. Patricia Yancey Martin and Robert A. Hummer. 1989. "Fraternities and Rape on Campus." *Gender & Society* 3(4).

Family

37. Stephanie Coontz. 2007. "The American Family." Pp. 425-431 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.

Religion

40. Marvin Harris. 1978. "India's Sacred Cow," *Human Nature Magazine* 1(2): 28, 30-36.

Education

39. Harry L. Gracey. 2007. "Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp." Pp. 446-460 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.

Medicine

38. Robbie E. Davis-Floyd. 1996. "Giving Birth the American Way." Pp. 432-445 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.

Social Change

46. William Van Dusen Wishard. 1991. "Caught Between the Ages." Pp. 535-546 in *Down To Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings* (14th ed.). New York: The Free Press.